

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A page window for a computer display screen, comprising:
a base image including at least one base image element, wherein the
base image element is at least one of a base control element, a base static
element and a base status element for display on the page window; and
5 at least one secondary image including at least one secondary image
element, wherein the secondary image element is at least one of a secondary
control element, a secondary static element and a secondary status element for
display on the page window in conjunction with the base image.
2. The page window as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base
image is derived from a plurality of base images.
3. The page window as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least
one secondary image comprises a plurality of secondary images.
4. A plurality of page windows for a computer controlled process,
each page window comprising:
a base image, including at least one base image element, that forms the
background for the plurality of page windows presented by the computer
5 controlled process, wherein the base image element is at least one of a base
control element, a base static element and a base status element; and

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a plurality of secondary images, each secondary image including at least one secondary image element, wherein the secondary image element is at least one of a base control element, a base static element and a base status element,

wherein each of the plurality of page windows presented by the computer controlled process is formed by a merger of at least one of the plurality of secondary images with the base image.

5. The plurality of page windows for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 4, wherein the at least one secondary image element modifies the at least one base image element of the base image.

6. The plurality of page windows as claimed in claim 4, wherein the base image is derived from a plurality of base images.

7. A page window for a computer controlled process, comprising:
a base image including at least one base image element responsive to either control or status stimuli; and

a plurality of secondary images, wherein at least one of the plurality of secondary images includes at least one secondary image element responsive to either control or status stimuli,

wherein the page window is formed by merger of the base image and one of the plurality of secondary images.

8. The page window for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the base image further includes at least one base static element.

9. The page window for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least one of the plurality of secondary images further includes at least one secondary static element.

10. The page window for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the at least one secondary image element responsive to control stimuli modifies the at least one base image element responsive to control stimuli.

11. The page window for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the at least one secondary image element responsive to status stimuli modifies the at least one base image element responsive to status stimuli.

12. The page window for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 7, wherein the base image is derived from a plurality of base images.

13. A method for displaying page windows for a computer controlled process on a computer display screen, the method including:

(a) retrieving a base image composed of at least one base image element from storage;

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- (b) retrieving a secondary image composed of at least one secondary image element from storage;
- (c) merging the retrieved base image with the retrieved secondary image to form a page window; and
- (d) displaying the page window on a computer display screen.

14. The method for displaying images for a computer controlled process on a computer display screen as claimed in claim 13, wherein step (a) further includes loading the retrieved base image into a display memory.

15. The method for displaying images for a computer controlled process on a computer display screen as claimed in claim 13, wherein step (b) further includes determining which secondary image to retrieve from a plurality of secondary images.

16. The method for displaying images for a computer controlled process on a computer display screen as claimed in claim 13, wherein step (b) further includes storing the retrieved secondary image in display storage.

17. The method for displaying images for a computer controlled process on a computer display screen as claimed in claim 13, wherein step (a) further includes retrieving a base image that includes at least one of a base control element, a base static element and a base status element.

18. The method for displaying images for a computer controlled process on a computer display screen as claimed in claim 13, wherein step (b) further includes retrieving a secondary image that includes at least one of a secondary control element, a secondary static element and a secondary status element.

19. The method for displaying images for a computer controlled process on a computer display screen as claimed in claim 13, wherein step (c) further includes modifying the retrieved base image by adding the secondary image elements of the retrieved secondary image to the base image elements of the retrieved base image.

20. The method for displaying images for a computer controlled process on a computer display screen as claimed in claim 13, wherein step (c) further includes modifying the retrieved base image by blanking out selected base image elements of the retrieved base image according to the secondary image elements of the retrieved secondary image.

21. The method for displaying images for a computer controlled process on a computer display screen as claimed in claim 13, wherein step (a) further includes deriving a final base image from a plurality of base images.

22. A computer system adapted to displaying page windows for a computer controlled process on a computer display screen, including:

a processor;

5 a memory including software instructions adapted to enable the
computer system to perform the steps of:

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- (a) retrieving a base image composed of at least one base image element from storage;
 - (b) retrieving a secondary image composed of at least one secondary image element from storage;
 - 10 (c) merging the retrieved base image with the retrieved secondary image, thereby creating a page window; and
 - (d) displaying the page window on a computer display screen.

23. The computer system adapted to displaying images for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 22, wherein step (a) further includes retrieving a base image that includes at least one of a base control element, a base static element and a base status element.

24. The computer system adapted to displaying page windows for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 22, wherein step (b) further includes retrieving a secondary image that includes at least one of a secondary control element, a secondary static element and a secondary status element.

25. The computer system adapted to displaying page windows for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 22, wherein step (c) further

includes modifying the retrieved base image by adding the secondary image elements of the retrieved secondary image to the base image elements of the
5 retrieved base image.

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26. The computer system adapted to displaying page windows for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 22, wherein step (c) further includes modifying the retrieved base image by blanking out selected base image elements of the retrieved base image according to the secondary image
5 elements of the retrieved secondary image.

27. The computer system adapted to displaying page windows for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 22, wherein step (a) further includes deriving a final base image at run-time from a plurality of base images prior to retrieval.

28. A computer program product for enabling a computer to display page windows for a computer controlled process on a computer display screen, including:

software instructions for enabling the computer to perform
5 predetermined operations, and a computer readable medium bearing the software instructions;

the predetermined operations including the steps of:

(a) retrieving a base image composed of at least one base image element from memory;

10 (b) retrieving a secondary image composed of at least one
secondary image element from memory;

(c) merging the retrieved base image with the retrieved
secondary image, thereby creating a page window; and

15 (d) displaying the page window on a computer display
screen.

29. A method for presenting a page window for a computer
controlled process, the method including:

(a) retrieving a base image including at least one base image
element responsive to either control or status stimuli;

5 (b) retrieving a secondary image including at least one secondary
image element responsive to either control or status stimuli;

(c) merging the base image and secondary image, wherein the
secondary image modifies the base image, thereby creating a page window;
and

10 (d) displaying the page window.

30. The method for presenting a page window for a computer
controlled process as claimed in claim 29, wherein step (c) further includes
modifying the retrieved base image by adding the at least one secondary image
element of the retrieved secondary image to the at least one base image
5 element of the retrieved base image.

31. The method for presenting a page window for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 29, wherein step (c) further includes modifying the retrieved base image by blanking out the at least one base image element of the retrieved base image according to the at least one secondary image element of the retrieved secondary image.

32. The method for presenting a page window for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 29, wherein step (a) further includes deriving a final base image from a plurality of base images prior to retrieval.

33. A computer system adapted to presenting a page window for a computer controlled process, including:

a processor;

a memory including software instructions adapted to enable the computer system to perform the steps of:

(a) retrieving a base image including at least one base image element responsive to either control or status stimuli;

(b) retrieving a secondary image including at least one secondary image element responsive to either control or status stimuli;

(c) merging the base image and secondary image, wherein the secondary image modifies the base image, thereby creating a page window; and

(d) displaying the page window.

34. The computer system adapted to presenting a page window for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 33, wherein step (c) further includes modifying the retrieved base image by adding the at least one secondary image element of the retrieved secondary image to the at least one base image element of the retrieved base image.

35. The computer system adapted to presenting a page window for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 33, wherein step (c) further includes modifying the retrieved base image by blanking out the at least one base image element of the retrieved base image according to the at least one secondary image element of the retrieved secondary image.

36. The computer system adapted to presenting a page window for a computer controlled process as claimed in claim 33, wherein step (a) further includes deriving a final base image from a plurality of base images prior to retrieval.

37. A computer program product for enabling a computer to present a page window for a computer controlled process, including:

software instructions for enabling the computer to perform predetermined operations, and a computer readable medium bearing the software instructions;

the predetermined operations including the steps of:

(a) retrieving a base image including at least one base image element responsive to either control or status stimuli;

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- (b) retrieving a secondary image including at least one secondary image element responsive to either control or status stimuli;
- (c) merging the base image and secondary image, wherein the secondary image modifies the base image and creates a page window; and
- (d) displaying the page window.